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new money annually last time and the time before. This item before us today has now become the third largest expenditure in state government, the third largest expenditure in state government out of General Fund money. The item we're talking about now, with the \$40 million, will represent 12¢ out of every state tax dollar paid. That person that works in your district, when he gets his paycheck and he sees the deduction, 12¢ out of every dollar goes to this program. I read where one member of the Committee said "I'm sorry that Senator Lewis stirred this issue up again". I'm sure he is. I'm sure he is concerned that the people of the state ought to know where their tax dollar goes. That same member asked in the Committee "Do you think anybody minds paying this?" First of all, the issue in four years hasn't really been discussed. I'm not sure that that taxpayer knows what he is paying. I think it ought to be out here in full light, under full disclosure, that this is a big ticket item. Of all the bills that we talk about expenditures and of all those people that claim that they try to hold the tax burden down this has been the largest encroachment on tax dollars of anything in the last four years. I couldn't dream up enough appropriation bills to equal \$10 million on an annual basis. Someone mentioned the teacher retirement system. Over 20 years that's \$26 million. That's a piker. Over 20 years this program is \$800 million. Let's put that in perspective. It should be discussed. The people ought to know what this is for.

Now let me tell you what my objections are and listen carefully. I am not objecting to personal property tax exemption. I am objecting to the method in which we provide the relief. I gave the Revenue Committee four or five choices. I said first of all put a dollar limitation on this thing. When it was first advocated the people of the state were told it would cost \$28 million. This is going to be a \$50 million plus program by the time it's over. \$50 million plus. There are those that claim it's inflation. No one believes that inflation has increased 100 percent in the last four years. If there are those that can prove that I'm sitting and waiting with baited breath to find it out. That has not happened. I know it hasn't and so do you.

Secondly, how do we provide for this relief? We collected, on sales and income, and we disperse it back out. So what does that do? Let's take Sarpe County. The state averages about \$22, \$23, \$24 per capita. Sarpe County receives back, according to a Lincoln Journal report, \$4 per capita. That means that that county is about \$18 under the per capita. That means that we collect 12¢ out of every man's pay check, 12 percent, 12¢ out of every dollar of taxes that man pays on his pay check, 12 percent of his sales tax.

(Senator Savage presiding)

PRESIDENT: Two minutes, Senator Lewis.